

RECEIPT # 58185
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 WAIVER FORM
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 BY DPTY. CLK. 6/3/04
 DATE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Plaintiff

C.A. No. _____

COMPLAINT

CORRECTION OFFICER ORCHID,
 UNKNOWN CORRECTION OFFICER JOHN
 DOE, JOE WHITMORE, DR. HOWARD, JOHN
 SMITH, PLYMOUTH COUNTY

Defendants

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INTRODUCTION

MAGISTRATE JUDGE 113B

1. This is an action for money damages alleging the violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983, and negligence pursuant to M.G.L. c. 258, §4. Plaintiff Scott Rodgers alleges that, while an inmate at Plymouth County House of Corrections, Defendants Nurse Whitmore and Dr. Howard provided medication to him in a manner that caused him injury and failed to properly or timely treat him when he complained of serious medical symptoms. Plaintiff further alleges that his injuries were the result of Defendant Correction Officers' failure to respond to his repeated pleas for access to medical care, in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Tort Claims Act, M.G.L. c. 258, §4. Plaintiff further alleges that the Defendant Plymouth County had a custom and policy of deliberate indifference to the rights of inmates incarcerated at the Plymouth County House of Corrections, and that Plymouth County was negligent in hiring, retaining, and not properly supervising Defendant Unknown Correction Officers and Defendant Correction Officer Orchid.

JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction is based upon 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343, and on the pendent jurisdiction of this Court to entertain claims arising under state law.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Scott Rodgers is a resident of Plymouth and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

4. Defendant Orchid was a duly appointed correction officer employed by the Plymouth House of Corrections and was employed at the Plymouth County House of Corrections at all times relevant to this Complaint and is sued in her individual capacity and as a corrections officer for the Plymouth County House of Corrections.

5. Defendant Unknown Corrections Officer John Doe was a duly appointed correction officers employed by the Plymouth House of Corrections and was employed at the Plymouth County House of Corrections at all times relevant to this Complaint and is sued in his individual capacity and as a corrections officer for the Plymouth County House of Corrections.

6. Defendant Joe Whitmore was a Nurse at the Plymouth House of Corrections and was acting as a Medical employee under color of law at all times relevant to this Complaint and is sued in his individual capacity as a Nurse in the Medical Department of the Defendant Plymouth House of Corrections.

7. Dr. Howard was a Doctor at the Plymouth House of Corrections and was acting as a Medical employee under color of law at all times relevant to this Complaint and is sued in his individual capacity as a Doctor in the Medical Department of the Defendant Plymouth House of Corrections.

8. Defendant John Smith was the Medical Unit Supervisor of Plymouth County Commissioner's Office and was acting under color of law at all times relevant to this Complaint, and is sued in his individual capacity as the medical supervisor.

9. Defendant Plymouth County is a duly designated county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the laws of Massachusetts.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. In August, 2001, Plaintiff was an inmate at the Plymouth County House of Corrections in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

11. On August 25, 2001, at approximately 11:00 p.m., Plaintiff began to feel dizzy and to vomit blood. For days preceding this episode, he had been complaining to jail medical staff of an upset stomach. He indicated that he thought the cause of his stomach ache might be the medication he was given related to a knee problem.

12. When Plaintiff began vomiting, he immediately pressed the button to call a corrections officer. No one responded. As a result, Plaintiff continued to throw up blood in his cell throughout the night.

13. The next morning, Plaintiff finally got the attention of defendant corrections officer Orchid while she was on her rounds. She indicated that she would contact medical services.

14. Shortly after the Plaintiff made his request to defendant Orchid, she returned and said that the medical staff would see him during medical rounds, many hours later. Plaintiff indicated that he needed immediate care as he was vomiting blood, but defendant Orchid walked away.

15. Later that morning, Plaintiff told defendant Unknown Correction Officer "John Doe" that he needed a doctor and that he had been vomiting blood all night. The defendant Unknown Correction Officer "John Doe" responded that Plaintiff needed to "get away" because Unknown Correction Officer "John Doe" did not want to contract Plaintiff's sickness.

16. Finally, the nurse, Joe Whitmore, came and told Plaintiff that he had food poisoning and gave him Maalox. Plaintiff requested to see a doctor; however, no doctor was provided. Plaintiff continued to vomit blood all morning.

17. At 1:00 p.m. on August 26th, when finally allowed to exit his cell, Plaintiff went to the defendant Unknown Corrections Officer "John Doe's" desk. Plaintiff collapsed near the desk. Defendant Unknown Corrections Officer "John Doe" told Plaintiff that he needed to "get the fuck up" if he wanted to be seen by medical services. Plaintiff was able to lift himself off the floor, but had to hold onto walls to keep from falling. When he arrived at medical services, he was told by the nurse that there was no doctor on duty.

18. Defendant Nurse Whitmore took Plaintiff's blood pressure. After taking his blood pressure, the Defendant Nurse ran into the other room to make a phone call. Plaintiff was immediately rushed to the hospital.

19. The admitting Doctor found the Plaintiff positive for black stools, abdominal pain, dizziness, and vomiting. A tube was placed in Plaintiff's stomach.

20. Plaintiff was found to have an active bleeding site in his stomach. He was transfused two units of packed red blood cells.

21. Two days after Plaintiff was admitted to the Emergency Room, while still in the hospital, the attending doctor noted that Plaintiff had been "taking a lot of Naprosyn."

22. The medical staff at Plymouth House of Corrections gave Plaintiff the Naprosyn in crushed form, every day for approximately four weeks, on an empty stomach.

23. Plaintiff was treated in the Intensive Care Unit for three days. He received blood transfusions. He had two separate surgeries to his stomach. He then received continued treatment in the hospital for a week.

24. Plaintiff continues to suffer stomach disorders due to the actions and nonaction of the defendants, and continues to take medication for these disorders. He can only eat a very limited diet.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF M.G.L. c. 258

25. Plaintiff restates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 24 and incorporates them herein as paragraph 25.

26. Defendants Howard, Whitmore, and Smith were negligent in failing to provide proper medical treatment to Plaintiff.

27. Defendant Unknown Corrections Officer "John Doe", defendant Orchid, and defendant Whitmore were negligent in their failure to respond to Plaintiff's pleas for medical assistance.

28. Defendant Plymouth County was negligent in hiring, retaining, and not properly supervising or disciplining the defendants corrections officers and medical staff.

29. Notice of this claim was provided to the Plymouth County Commissioner's Office on August 18, 2003. An acknowledgement of receipt was sent on September 2, 2002, from Mark C. Gilday who represents the Plymouth County Commissioner's Office.

COUNT II

VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983 BY ALL INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS

30. Plaintiff restates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 29 and incorporates them herein as paragraph 30.

31. By the actions described in paragraphs 1 through 31 herein, all individual defendants, acting under color of law, violated Plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment to the United

States Constitution by demonstrating deliberate indifference to his clearly established right to medical care while in custody.

COUNT III

VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. §1983 BY DEFENDANT PLYMOUTH COUNTY

32. Plaintiff restates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 31 and incorporates them herein as paragraph 32.

33. The Defendant Plymouth County has a custom and policy of deliberate indifference to the rights of its citizens:

a. By failing to adequately train its officers and medical staff on proper responses when inmates incarcerated at the Plymouth County House of Corrections seek medical treatment or are in need of emergency assistance.

b. By failing to adequately train, supervise, and discipline officers and medical staff who disregard inmates' medical needs and pleas for medical assistance.

c. By tolerating a practice in which inmates seeking assistance are overlooked or disregarded by correction officers and medical staff.

d. By failing to adequately investigate incidents involving corrections officers and where inmates suffer medical injury as a result of the improper medical care and failure to respond to pleas for medical assistance.

COUNT IV

**VIOLATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
BY ALL DEFENDANTS**

34. The Plaintiff reasserts paragraphs 1 thorough 33 and incorporates them herein as paragraph 34.

35. The Defendants violated Plaintiff's civil rights by intimidation, coercion, and violence.

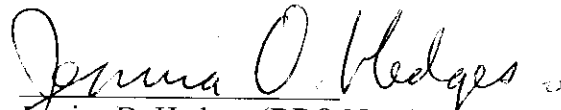
WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court award:

1. Compensatory damages against all Defendants jointly and severally;
2. Punitive Damages against the individual Defendants;
3. The costs of this action, including reasonable attorney's fees; and,
4. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem necessary and appropriate.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

A jury trial is hereby demanded.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Plaintiff Scott Rodgers,
By his Attorneys


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Dated: August 24th, 2004